

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 /093 W

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R 181545 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4591

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PBOR, EI

SUBJ: FITZGERALD PLANS NI VISITS

1. FONMIN FITZGERALD, IN BACKGROUNDERS TO DUBLIN PRESS, HAS MADE CLEAR THAT HE INTENDS VISIT NI REGULARLY, AND TOO SEE BOTH PROTESTANT AND CATHOLIC COMMUNITY LEADERS THERE. PAPERS REPORT THAT PLAN HAS ALREADY BEEN CLEARED BY WHITELAW. VISITS WOULD BE CONTINUATION OF FITZGERALD'S PERSONAL PRACTICE OVER RECENT YEARS. AS FONMIN, HIS VISITS TO NORTH WILL NATURALLY TAKE ON NEW SIGNIFICANCE. FORTUNATELY, OF ALL SOUTHERN LEADERS, FITZGERALD MAY ENJOY WIDEST AREA OF SUPPORT-- OR TOLERANCE-- THROUGHOUT ISLAND.

2. MOST RECENT OFFICIAL PRECEDENT IS VISIT OF FITZGERALD'S PREDECESSOR, HILLERY, TO FALLS AREA OF BELFAST MORE THAN TWO YEARS AGO. HILLERY WAS SEEN ONLY IN CATHOLIC AREA, HOWEVER, AND VISIT WAS WIDELY CRITICIZED ( BY FITZGERALD, AMONG OTHERS) AS BEING SECTARIAN.

3. IN SAME PRESS STORIES, THERE ARE BROAD HINTS THAT PM HEATH WOULD BE WELCOME IN DUBLIN AND THAT PM

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COSGRAVE WOULD EVENTUALLY LIKE TO BE INVITED TO NI.

4. ON CURRENT NI SUBJECTS, FITZGERALD STRESSED DUBLIN INTEREST IN ACTIVE WORK ON " COUNCIL OF IRELAND" CONCEPT. HE ALSO VOICED-- STILL ON BACKGROUND-- CONCERN OVER BEHAVIOR OF BRITISH PARATROOPERS IN NORTH. DISMAY OVER PARATROOPS' BEHAVIOR HAS BEEN THEME OF MANY COMMENTATORS, NORTH AND SOUTH, IN RECENT DAYS.

5. COMMENT: POLICY TOWARD NORTH IS DEVELOPING VERY MUCH ALONG LINES ONE WOULD EXPECT AFTER READING FITZGERALD'S RECENT BOOK, " TOWARD A NEW IRELAND." HE OPENLY SHARES HISTORIC IRISH DREAM OF UNITY, WHICH MAY ACCOUNT FOR THE FACT THAT HE, UNLIKE CONCOR CRUISE- O' BRIEN, IS GRUDGINGLY ADMIRER EVEN BY SOME " REPUBLICANS." ON OTHER HAND, FITZGERALD TOTALLY REJECTS VIOLENCE AND ENGAGES IN NONE OF TRADITIONAL DOUBLE- THINK TOWARD IRA.

6. PM COSGRAVE, DURING FORMATION OF GOVT, SAID THAT HE INTENDED PERSONALLY TO RETAIN RESPONSIBILITY FOR NI AFFAIRS, AS DID EX- PM LYNCH. FITZGERALD, HOWEVER, IS CLEARLY GETTING SOME OF THE ACTION. COSGRAVE AND FITZGERALD MAY HAVE HAD MEETING OF MINDS ON SUBJECT OF NI, THOUGH THEY HAVE OFTEN DIFFERED ON QUESTION OF SOCIAL REFORMS IN SOUTH. SORENSON

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\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 18 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** boyleja  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973DUBLIN00521  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
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**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** boyleja  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <24-Aug-2001 by boyleja>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980122  
**Subject:** FITZGERALD PLANS NI VISITS  
**TAGS:** PBOR, EI  
**To:** EUR INFO BELFAST  
LONDON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005